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ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRÈR ROJAS HAITIAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR, RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT.

KP 5-18-98

Previous investigation has reflected that ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS, former Cuban Senator, presently residing in New York City, allegedly had sent a group of Cuban exiles from the New York area to Miami, for the purpose of participating in an invasion of Haiti, and that, some of these men had reportedly gone down to the Florida Keys to a camp for training.

Close friends and relatives of MASFERRER, when interviewed, denied any knowledge of these allegations and claimed that MASFERRER had not been in the Miami area, despite reports to the contrary.

It is to be noted that during the BATISTA regime, while serving as Senator from Oriente Province, MASFERRER was the head of a so-called "goon squad" commonly known as "The Tigers." MASFERRER acquired a reputation of being ruthless, but was at the same time an enemy of FIDEL CASTRO. He is still regarded with considerable fear by many Cubans, and at the same time he has the staunch support of his followers.

He has been excluded from the Miami area and restricted to the New York area by the Immigration and

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ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS HAITIAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI

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the group. She stated she rented a small runabout motor boat to the group so they could reach No Name Key with their equipment. She advised the group appeared to be under the direction of OSCAP PINO, who she stated had previously been on No Name Key with other Cuban trainees.

Mrs. OETTLE advised that on the morning of August 18, 1963, she had observed LARRY HOWARD, a Mexican, bring 8 or 9 more Cubans through her fishing camp to No Name Key. She stated HOWARD was in a 1957 Chevrolet, blue bottom with white top. She described him as 5'8", 180 pounds, black hair, black mustache, round face. She stated he departed from No Name Key and drove off in the car with two other Cubans on the morning of August 19, 1963.

On August 19, 1963, CPO WALTER PARKER, U.S. Coast Guard, Marathon, Florida, advised the Coast Guard had assisted in landing four Customs agents on No Name Key on the night of August 16, 1963. They located approximately 16 Cubans dressed in Army fatigues, who claimed to be members of the 2506th Brigade, recently discharged from the U.S. Army. The group claimed they were on No Name Key to take photographs of army maneuvers for propaganda purposes and to raise funds. They claimed to have the permission of the owner to occupy the premises and would remain on the key for 2 or 3 days. A search by the Customs agents did not reflect any concealed weapons.

PARKER advised the Coast Guard was maintaining routine patrols in the area and would advise of any untoward activity. He added that the U.S. Coast Guard patrol planes pass in the vicinity of No Name Key about twice a day.

